

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A system for resolving ambiguity comprising:

a program module executing on a computer that receives inputs and generates from the received inputs a collection of ranked interpretations comprising a set of fragments of data types structurally compatible to data types in the received inputs, wherein a fragment of the set of compatible fragments is generated by analyzing a grammatical structure of one or more of the inputs at a linguistic level, such that a token not present in the received inputs may be included in the fragment based on matching words and comparing grammatical structures. ~~the collection of ranked interpretations comprising one or more constraints on a data schema.~~

2. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the inputs comprise a natural language request.

3. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the inputs comprise a filter.

4. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the inputs comprise a bias.

5. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the inputs comprise a culture.

6. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the inputs comprise a schema for data to be operated upon.

7. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a module for connecting to a plurality of search providers.

8. (Original) The system of claim 7, wherein the module for connecting to the plurality of search providers receives search results from the plurality of search providers.

9. (Currently Amended) A method for resolving ambiguity in a natural language request, the method comprising:

in response to receiving a natural language request and at least one input, generating a plurality of ranked interpretations comprising a set of fragments of data types structurally compatible to data types in the request, wherein a fragment of the set of compatible fragments is generated by analyzing a grammatical structure of the request at a linguistic level, such that a token not present in the received request may be included in the fragment based on matching words and comparing grammatical structures; and

performing an action in response to at least one of the plurality of ranked interpretations.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the action comprises performing a search.

11. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the action comprises executing a command represented by the at least one of the plurality of ranked interpretations.

12. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the at least one input comprises a filter.

13. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the at least one input comprises a bias.

14. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the at least one input comprises a culture.

15. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the at least one input comprises a schema for data upon which the action will be taken.

16. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein generating the plurality of ranked interpretations comprises:

analyzing the natural language request to determine a plurality of relevant terms,

associating each of the plurality of relevant terms with at least one structure of a plurality of structures in a schema associated with data upon which the action will be taken;

combining terms associated with the at least one structure to generate at least one interpretation of the plurality of interpretations; and

assigning a rank to the at least one interpretation.

17. (Original) The method of claim 9, further comprising sending at least one of the plurality of ranked interpretations to at least one of a plurality of search providers.

18. (Original) The method of claim 9, further comprising receiving a collection of search results from at least one of a plurality of search providers.

19. (Original) The method of claim 9, further comprising receiving a set of parameters.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein the set of parameters comprises an expansion policy.

21. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein the set of parameters comprises an interpretation generation policy.

22. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium comprising computer-executable instructions for

in response to receiving a natural language request, analyzing the natural language request by analyzing a grammatical structure of the natural language request at a linguistic level to determine a plurality of relevant terms, wherein the plurality of relevant terms are not limited to those present in the natural language request;

associating each of the plurality of relevant terms with a structure in a schema associated with data upon which an action will be taken such that the data is structurally compatible to data in the natural language request;

combining terms associated with the structure to generate at least one interpretation of the natural language request based on matching words and comparing grammatical structures;

assigning a rank to the at least one interpretation; and

performing an action in response to the at least one interpretation.

23. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 22, comprising further computer-executable instructions for performing a search.

24. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 22, comprising further computer-executable instructions for executing a command represented by the at least one interpretation.

25. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 22, comprising further computer-executable instructions for connecting to a plurality of search providers.

26. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 22, comprising further computer-executable instructions for displaying search results.